Debugging in AnyLogic

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Model Appropriateness Consideration

- Have we built the right model?
- Have we built the model right?

Have We Built the Right Model?

- -This is the province of "validation"
- —We can rarely validate the model only seek to
 - Build confidence
 - Disconfirm it
- -This is specific to model purpose
- -Here, a lapse is either
 - an oversimplification of the situation
 - An inaccurate "dynamic hypothesis" as to how things work

Have We Built the Model Right?

- Did we implement our planned model logic as we had intended?
 - Did we want one thing and put in place mechanisms that entailed another thing
 - This is the province of classic testing & quality assurance
 - Peer reviews
 - Testing (e.g. Junit)
- Here, a lapse is typically a model "defect" (bug)
 - In this lecture, we will be dealing with identifying this sort of defect

Debugging: Faults, Failures

- A "fault" is an underlying defect
- A failure is a visible problem, e.g.
 - Model "crashes"
 - Model will not run
 - Model is reporting values that are patently impossible given the implications of our intensions
 - Carcasses arising and walking
 - People recovering form a lifelong illness
 - People moving on a surface that should be impassable (e.g. a river)

Surprises & Failures

- Often complex models (including ABMs) exhibit surprising emergent properties
 - There may be things we consider very implausible that are jointly implied of various pieces of our model specification
 - There may even be things we consider "impossible" given our intended model structure that are in fact implied by it – we just didn't realize this!

Some Model "Surprises" Reflect...

- Mistakes in our implementation (divergence of "what we told the model to do" from "what we intended to tell the model to do")
 - Typing "a/a+b" rather than "a/(a+b)"
 - Misunderstanding of how a type of model building block (e.g. a guard in a rate transition) "works"
- Unrealistic aspects of our plan ("what we intended to tell the model to do" had hidden inconsistences with how the world works)
- Discoveries about what could happen in the world
- We are focusing here on the first of these issues, but need to realize that it often takes time to figure out in which category a given surprise lies!

What is Debugging?

 Debugging is the process of finding and removing the defects (faults) in our program, based on observations of "failures" or "aberrant behaviour"

Best Debugging Strategy: Avoiding It!

- Defensive Programming
- Offensive Programming

We will talk about best practices for these approaches in a separate lecture

Offensive Programming: Try to Get Broken Program to Fail Early, Hard

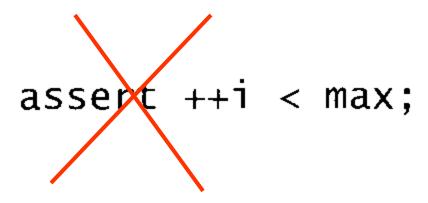
- Asserts: Proactively scan for and flag incorrect assumptions, aborting the program as a result
- Fill memory allocated with illegal values
- Fill object w/illegal data just before deletion
- Set buffers at end of heap, so that overwrites likely trigger page fault
- Setting default values to be illegal in enums
- We will talk about Assertions & Error Handling later this week

Assertion Goal: Fail Early!

- Alert programmer to misplaced assumptions as early as possible
- Benefits
 - Documents assumptions
 - Reduces likelihood that error will slip through
 - Helps discourage "lazy" handling of only common case
 - Forces developer to deal explicitly with bug before continuing
 - Reduces debugging time
 - Helps improve thoroughness of tests

Avoid Side Effects in Assertions

 Because assertions may be completely removed from the program, it is unsafe to rely on side effects occuring in them

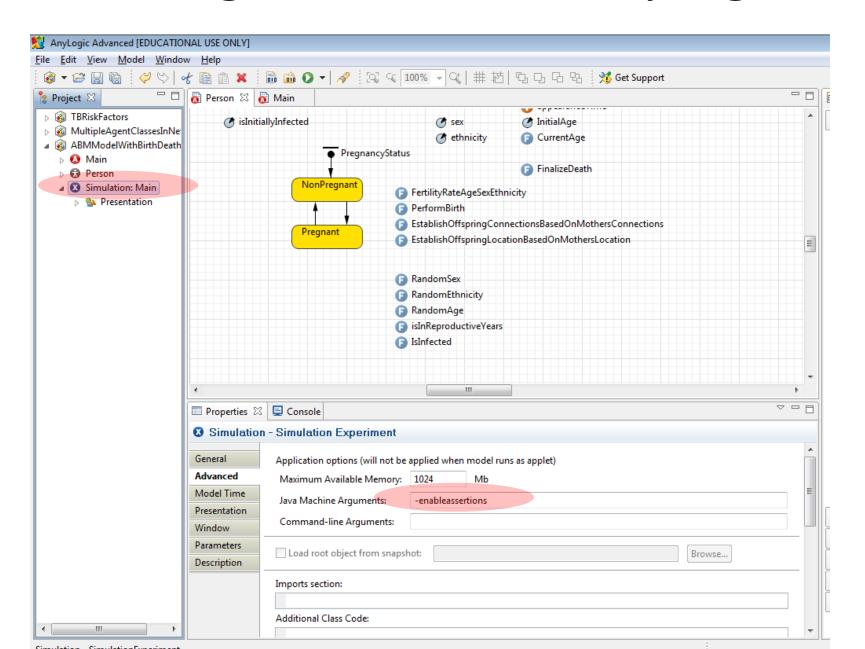


Arnold et al. The Java Programming Language, Fourth Edition. 2006.

Enabling Assertions in Java

- 2 ways
 - Usual: Via java runtime command line
 - -enableassertions/-ea[descriptor]
 - e.g.
- -enableassertions:com.acme.Plotter
- -enableassertions:com.acme...
- -disableassertions/-da[descriptor]
- Less common: via reflection (ClassLoader) public void setDefaultAssertionStatus(boolean enabled) public void setPackageAssertionStatus(String packageName, boolean enabled) public void setClassAssertionStatus(String className, boolean enabled)

Enabling Assertions in AnyLogic



Assertions in Later AnyLogic Versions

- In some later AnyLogic versions, should enable assertions only in the model itself
- This is simple to do
 - Uses the package name
- More details on this are available on request

AspectJ and Eclipse

- AspectJ is a language that allows for succinctly describing "cross cutting" functionality in programs – such as tracing or logging requests
- AspectJ can automatically insert tracing instrumentation into our code
 - This gives us many of the benefits of manual tracing program execution without the need for the markup & mark-down work
- If time permits, we will present this method on Friday

A Powerful Debugging Approach

- Simplify error occurrence as much as possible
- Locate fault source
 - Gather data or context that reproduces problem
 - Rip out whole areas of model to see simplest condition that (sometimes just seeing what eliminates error immediately clues in to what it might be)
 - Record what have done

do

- Analyze data & form hypothesis about defect
- Determine how to prove/disprove hypothesis
- Prove or disprove hypothesis
- Think about defect

Until can fix defect

- Look for similar errors that may not yet be found
- Figure out what about process left vulnerable to this error

Important Elements

- "Localizing" problem (Simplifying model & input until discover minimum required mechanism)
 - Save away original model (so don't modify!)
 - Comparing good & bad versions: What is different?
 - Note down what does & does not work
 - Seeing path of execution (particularly around fault location)
- Alternate between thinking & experimenting
- Observing model state ("situation") at points preceding error
- Compare with previous versions that were working
- Read error messages given by AnyLogic
- Confirming certain assumptions are true prior to error
- Talk with someone about issue/perform a peer review
- Specify and investigate top hypotheses

Debugging AnyLogic

- AnyLogic's researcher version now contains a debugger
- You can attach to AnyLogic from debuggers such as Eclipse
 - The key thing is to set anylogic to use a port

Debugging Options

- Debugging is the process of locating and fixing the faults behind observed failures
- Using output for manual tracing & reporting
 - A valuable option here is to use this interactively
- Using model navigation mechanisms to inspect information about the model
- Using AspectJ for tracing/logging
- Using tools like log4j for customizable logging
- Using an external debugger (e.g. via eclipse)
- Using AnyLogic Professional/Research debugger

Using output for manual tracing & reporting

- Pros
 - Minimal learning curve
 - Flexible
 - Easily targeted
- Cons
 - Requires time-consuming manual
 - "markup"
 - de-markup
 - Can require many build/simulation iterations to localize problem
 - Limited capacity of console

Output to the Console: How To

- System.err.println(String)
 - System.err.println("Sent cure message to person [" + associatedPerson + "]");
 - This will appear in red
- traceln(String)
- System.out.println(String)

Use in AnyLogic

```
Person
           Main

    □ AgentEntity.java 
    □

     public void Cure()
          associatedPerson.send("Cured!", associatedPerson);
          associatedPerson.deliver("Cured!", associatedPerson);
          System.err.println("Sent cure message to person [" + associatedPerson + "]");
      @Override
     public String toString()
          return "Entity for agent " + associatedPerson;
       * This number is here for model snapshot storing purpose<br>
       * It needs to be changed when this class gets changed
     private static final long serialVersionUID = 1L;
                                                            ■ Properties   Console  
<terminated> anylogic config [Java Application] C:\Program Files (x86)\AnyLogic 6\jre\bin\javaw.exe (Jan 15, 2010 12:07:43 PM)
Sent cure message to person [root.Population[0]]
Sent cure message to person [root.Population[6]]
Sent cure message to person [root.Population[88]]
I was cured!
I was cured!
I was cured!
I was cured!
Sent cure message to person [root.Population[95]]
I was cured!
Sent cure message to person [root.Population[60]]
I was cured!
Sent cure message to person [root.Population[37]]
I was cured!
```

Interactive reporting

- AnyLogic's support of interactive mechanisms allows us to custom-trigger reporting through user interface actions
 - Button push
 - Mouse click
- We can also use elements like sliders to change things in a way that hints as to the nature of a problem
- This reporting may be
 - Custom-built for debugging
 - Built in, but not typically used here

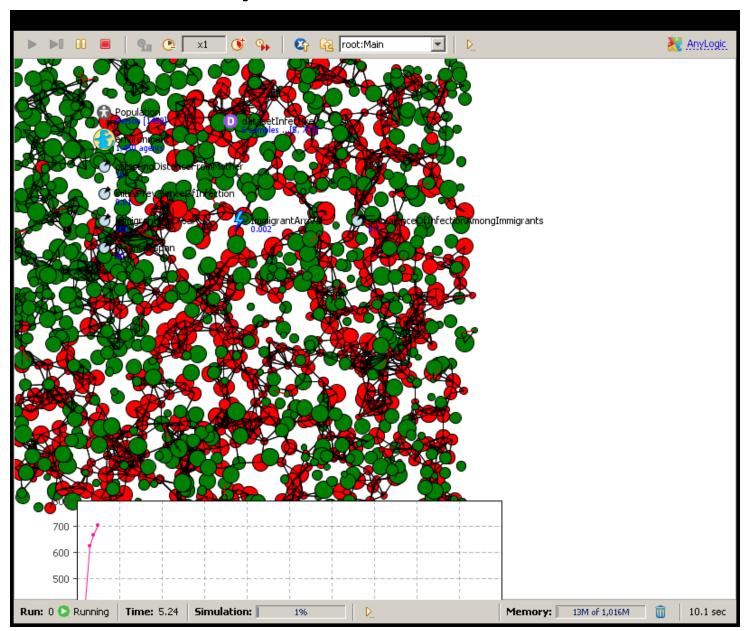


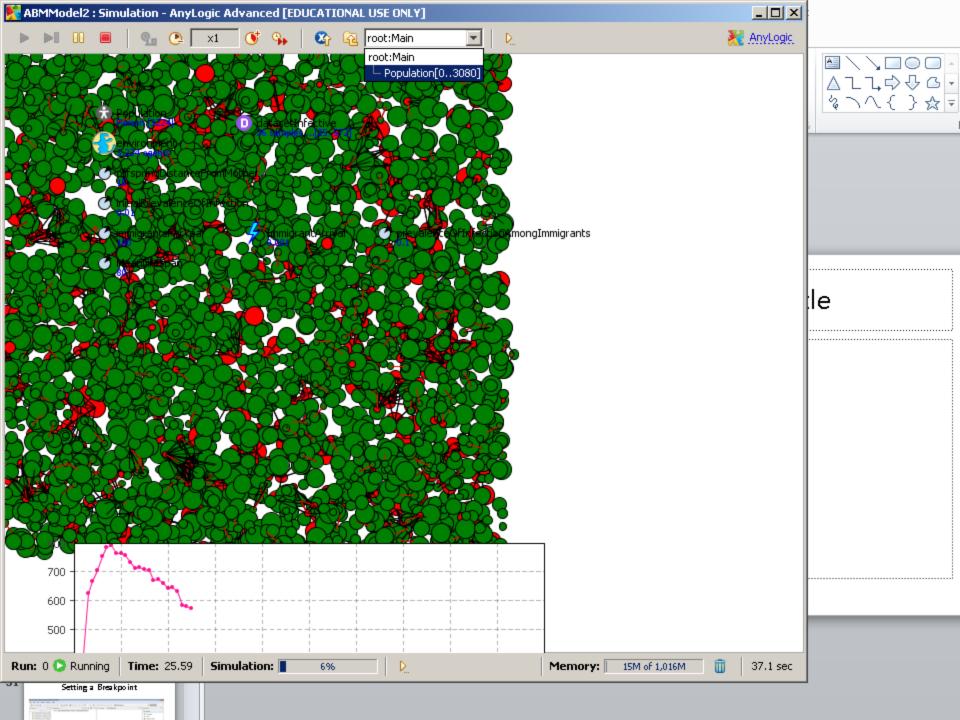
Hands on Model Use Ahead



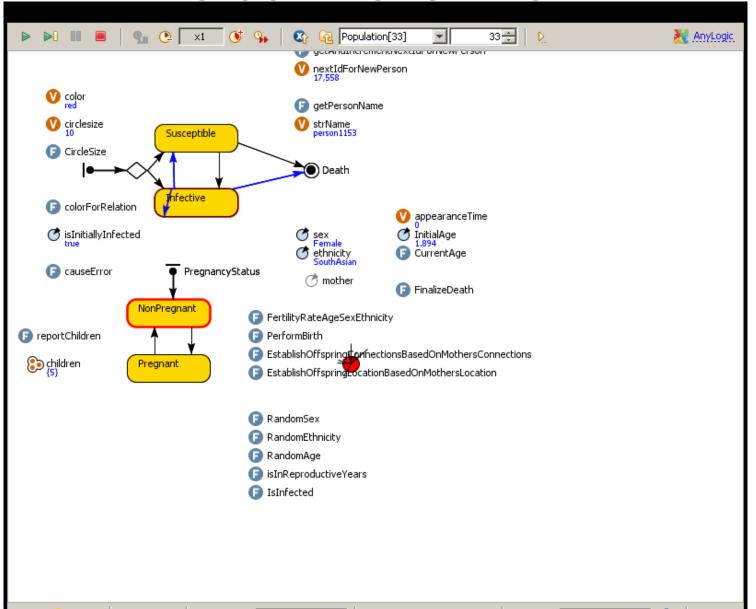
Load Provided Shared Model: **ABMModelWithBirthDeath**

Population View

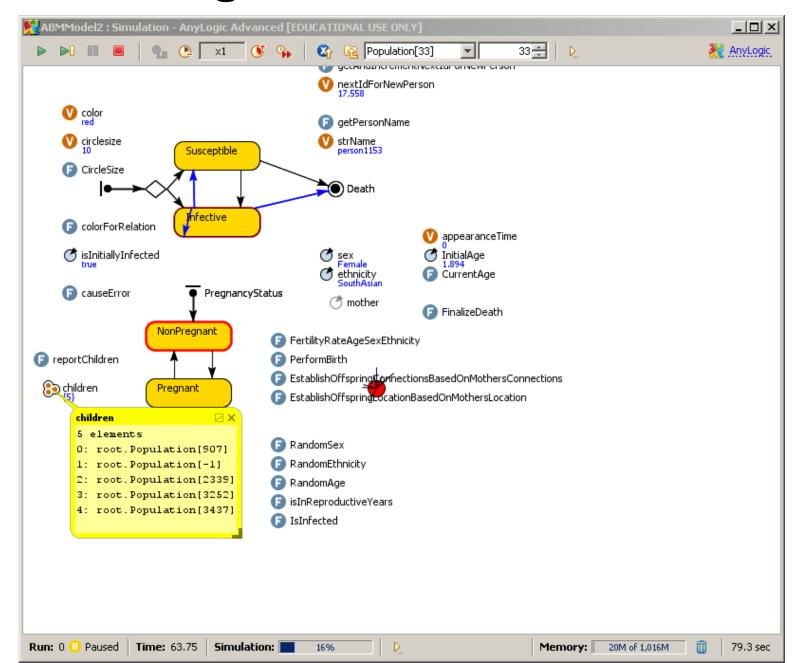




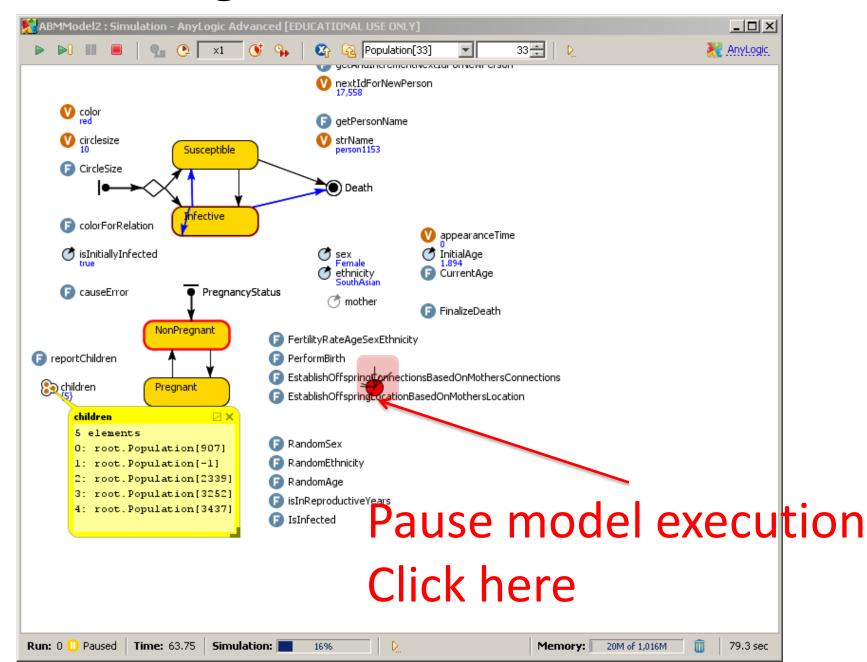
Person-Level View



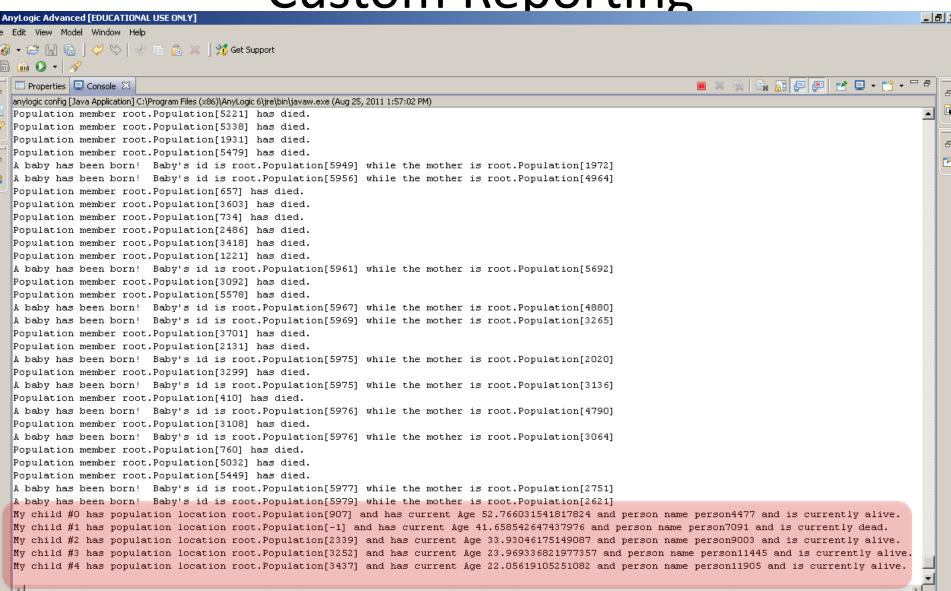
Examining Contents of Collection



Examining Contents of Collection



Custom Reporting



Logging

- Logging is the process of recording a record (trace) of events during program execution
 - Recording can be made to a database, files, text console, etc.
- Logging can be performed at a variety of levels of detail
- Log4j is one logging framework

Logging with Log4j

- Use of config files to configure
- Different levels of logger
 - TRACE, DEBUG, INFO, WARN, ERROR and FATAL
- A given logger can be associated with Multiple output streams
- Doing error uploads to a server
- Sending email (?)

```
public class Logger {
  // Creation & retrieval methods:
  public static Logger getRootLogger();
  public static Logger getLogger(String name);
  // printing methods:
  public void trace(Object message);
  public void debug(Object message);
  public void info(Object message);
  public void warn(Object message);
  public void error(Object message);
  public void fatal(Object message);
  // generic printing method:
  public void log(Level I, Object message);
```

Example use of Log4j

```
// get a logger instance named "com.foo"
Logger logger = Logger.getLogger("com.foo");
logger.warn("Low fuel level.");
logger.info("general information");
// This request is disabled, because DEBUG < INFO.
logger.debug("Starting search for nearest gas station.");</pre>
```

Config File

Here are example configuration files # Set root logger level to DEBUG and its only appender to A1.

log4j.rootLogger=DEBUG, A1

- # A1 is set to be a ConsoleAppender. log4j.appender.A1=org.apache.log4j.ConsoleAppender
- # A1 uses PatternLayout. log4j.appender.A1.layout=org.apache.log4j.PatternLayout log4j.appender.A1.layout.ConversionPattern=%-4r [%t] %-5p

%c %x - %m%n

Config File: Suppressing Selective Information log4j.rootLogger=DEBUG, A1 log4j.appender.A1=org.apache.log4j.ConsoleAppender log4j.appender.A1.layout=org.apache.log4j.PatternLayout

Print the date in ISO 8601 format log4j.appender.A1.layout.ConversionPattern=%d [%t] %-5p %c - %m%n

Print only messages of level WARN or above in the package com.foo.

log4j.logger.com.foo=WARN

Multiple Outputs

- log4j.rootLogger=debug, stdout, R log4j.appender.stdout=org.apache.log4j.ConsoleAppender log4j.appender.stdout.layout=org.apache.log4j.PatternLayout
- # Pattern to output the caller's file name and line number. log4j.appender.stdout.layout.ConversionPattern=%5p [%t] (%F:%L) - %m%n
- log4j.appender.R=org.apache.log4j.RollingFileAppender log4j.appender.R.File=example.log log4j.appender.R.MaxFileSize=100KB
- # Keep one backup file log4j.appender.R.MaxBackupIndex=1 log4j.appender.R.layout=org.apache.log4j.PatternLayout log4j.appender.R.layout.ConversionPattern=%p %t %c - %m%n

Using the External Eclipse Debugger with AnyLogic

External Debugging in Eclipse

- The "Eclipse" editor is one of the most popular extant software development tools
- Eclipse offers plug-ins of many sorts
 - Debuggers
 - Profilers
 - Visualization tools
 - Version control of models
- Eclipse can be used to debug AnyLogic models at the Java source-code level

Overview: Setting up External Eclipse Debugging in AnyLogic

- In anylogic, Set the jvm options for socket based debugging (e.g. eclipse)
 - go to "Properties" on the "Simulation" to run for the anylogic model
 - Set the "Java Machine Arguments" as follows:
 - -Xdebug -Xnoagent -Djava.compiler=NONE -Xrunjdwp:transport=dt_socket,server=y,suspend=n,address=8321
- in eclipse, create a debug configuration
 - use "Remote Java Application"
 - no project
 - for "Connection Type", select "Standard (Socket Attach)"
 - for "Connection properties", Use
 - Host: localhost
 - Port 8321

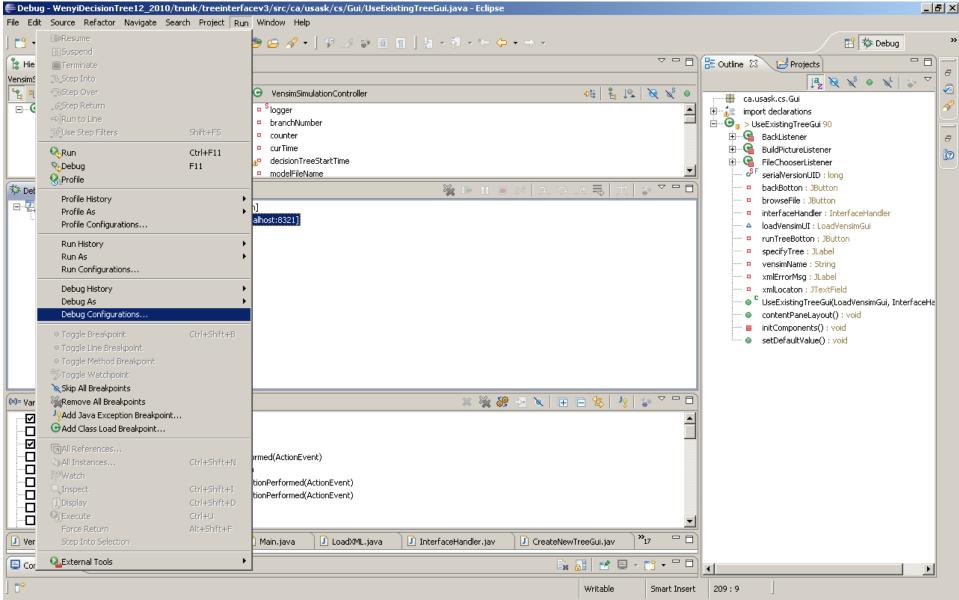
Steps Required for Eclipse Debugging

- One time set-up for a particular model
 - Set up AnyLogic to allow debugging connections
 - Set up Eclipse to know
 - How to connect to AnyLogic
 - Where to look for source code files
- Every time want to debug
 - Go to Eclipse
 - Tell debugger to connect to AnyLogic process
 - Interrupt process
 - Set breakpoints, etc.

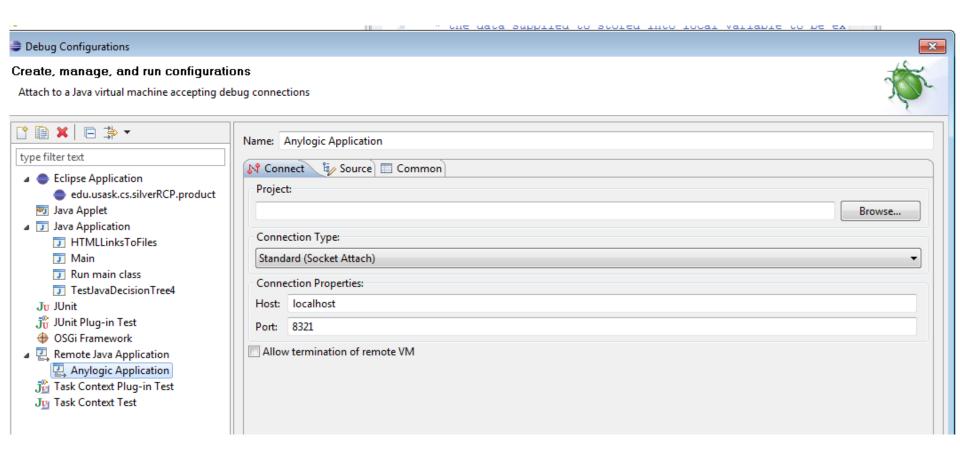
One-Time Setup In AnyLogic

- -Xdebug -Xnoagent -Djava.compiler=NONE -Xrunjdwp:transport=dt_socket,server=y,suspend=n,address=8321
- These go under the "Advanced" tab of the simulation run to use

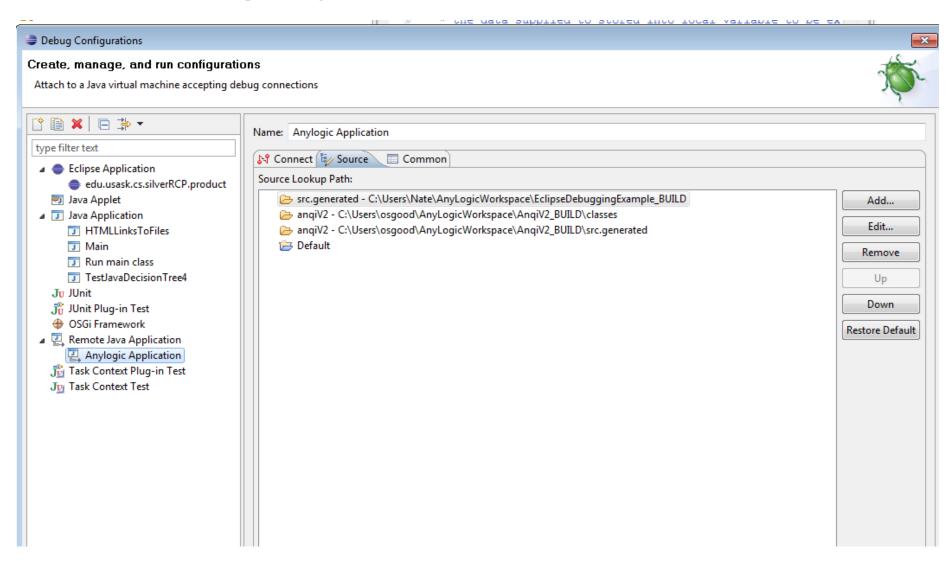
Setting up Debug Configurations



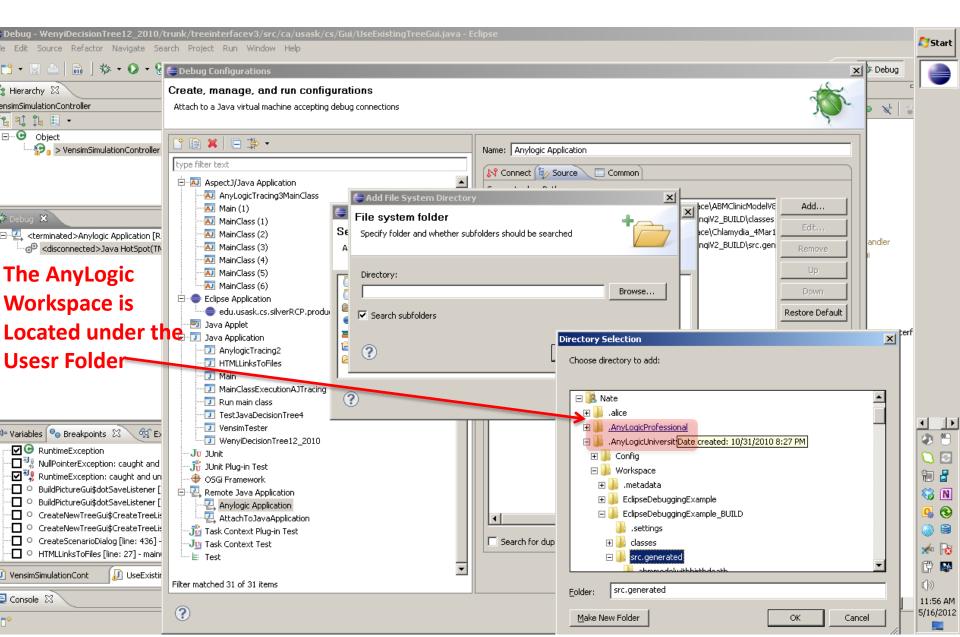
Set up: Creating a Debugging Configuration in Eclipse



Setting Up Source Code Folders



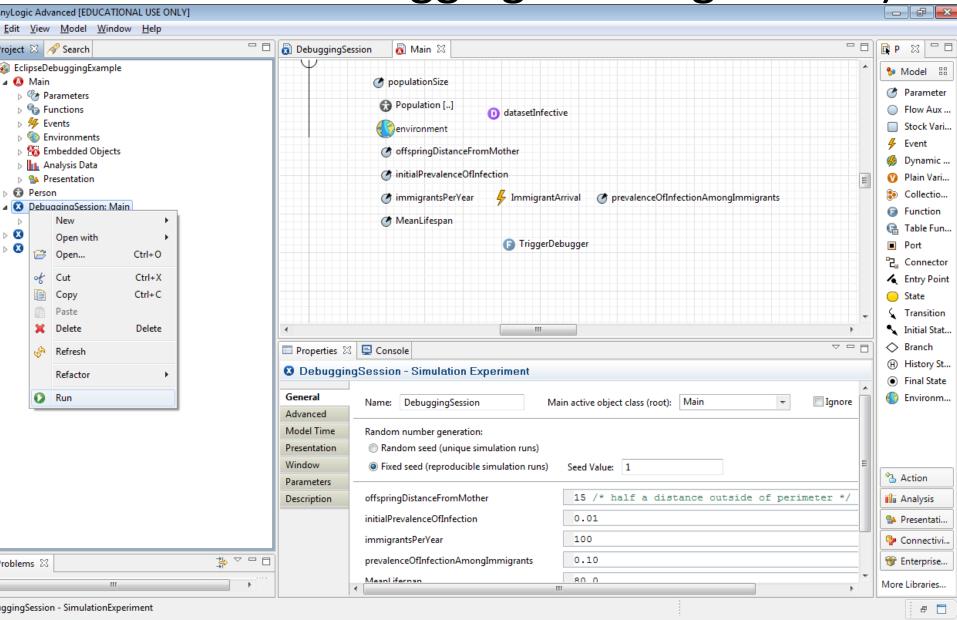
Add Source Folder



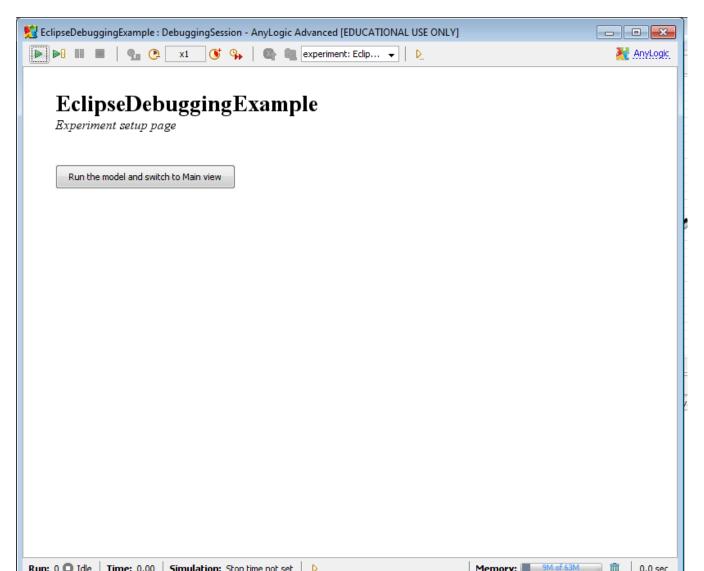
Once Set up, Can...

- Set breakpoints
- See the variables, with symbolic information
- Suggestions
 - Set a breakpoint on a thrown runtime exception (regardless of whether caught)
 - Throw a caught runtime exception from model startup code
 - When catch this in Eclipse, can then use to set breakpoints (including in other files)

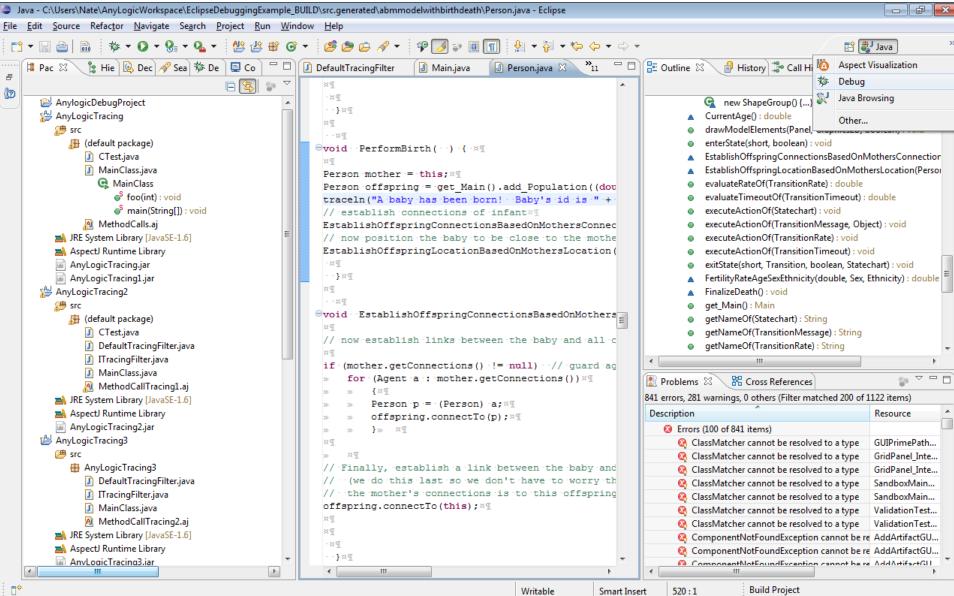
Start AnyLogic Model (Experiment with Extra Debugging JVM Arguments)



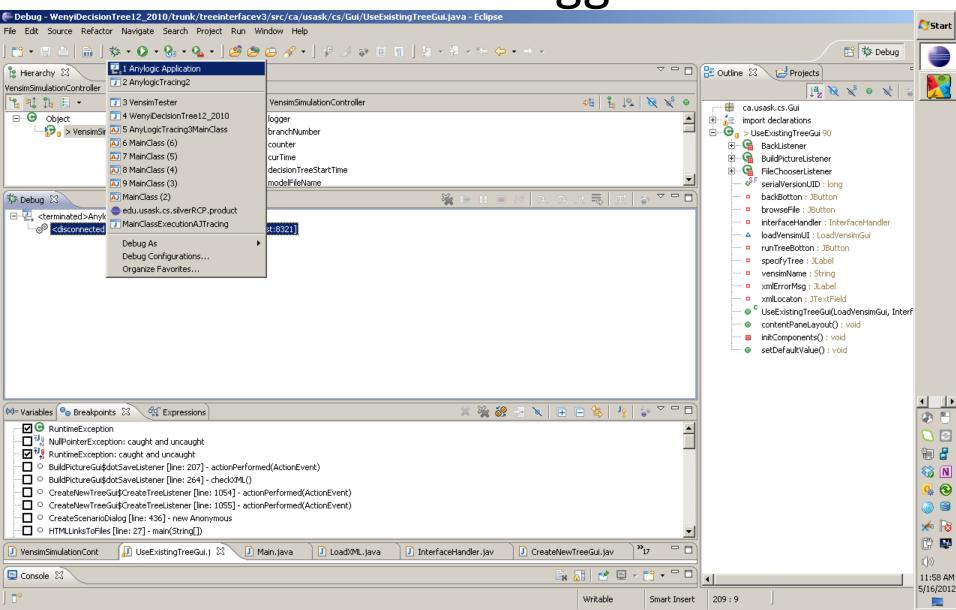
Leave on Opening Screen for Now (So We can Set up Eclipse)



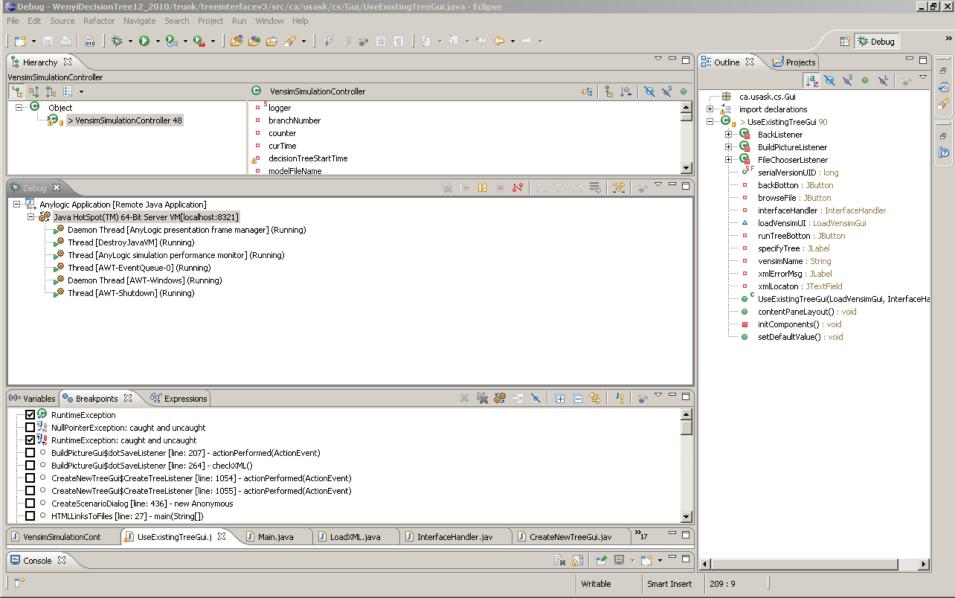
In Eclipse, Open "Debug" Perspective



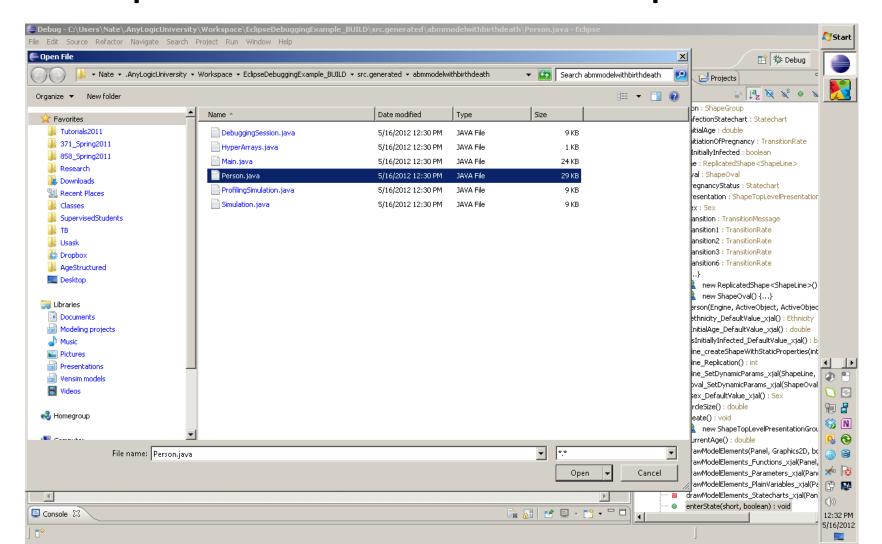
Start Debugger



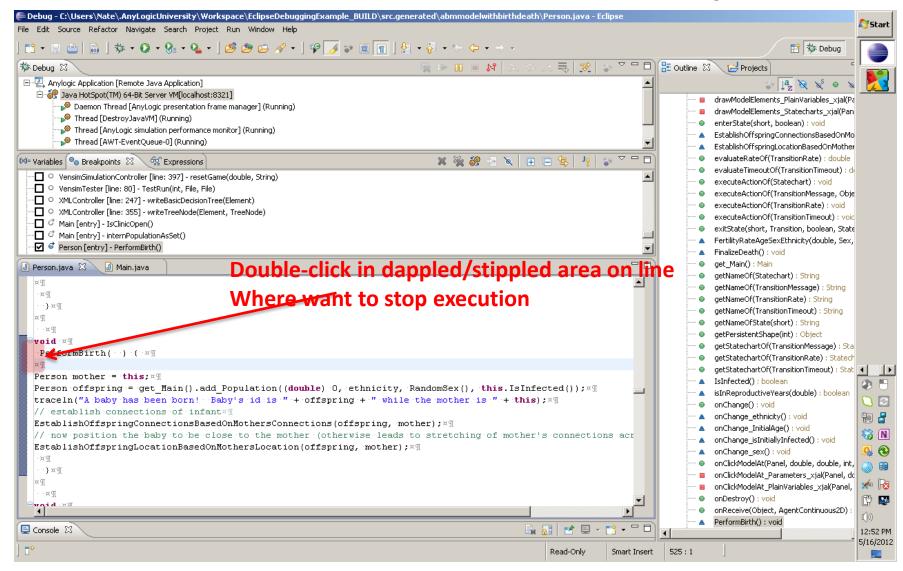
Following Connection



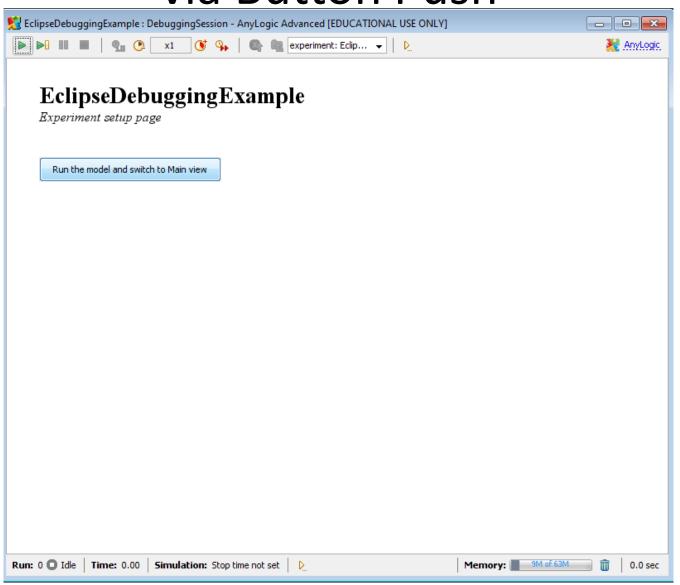
Open Up Java Files from the Workspace Folder for this Project to Inspect Source & Set Breakpoints



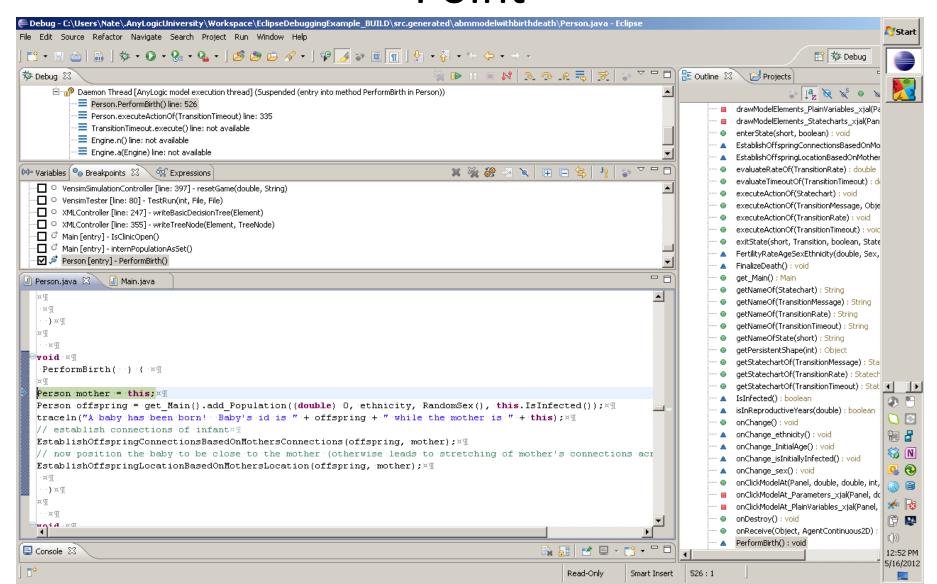
Now Can Set Breakpoints in Main.java or Elsewhere (Here: Person.java)



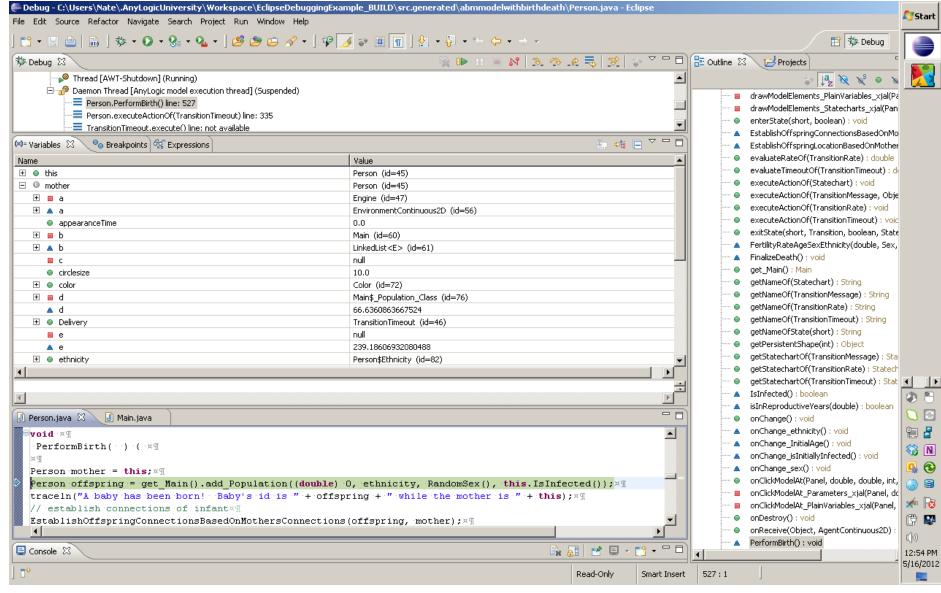
Return to AnyLogic & Start Simulation via Button Push



When Breakpoint is Hit, Will See Reach Point

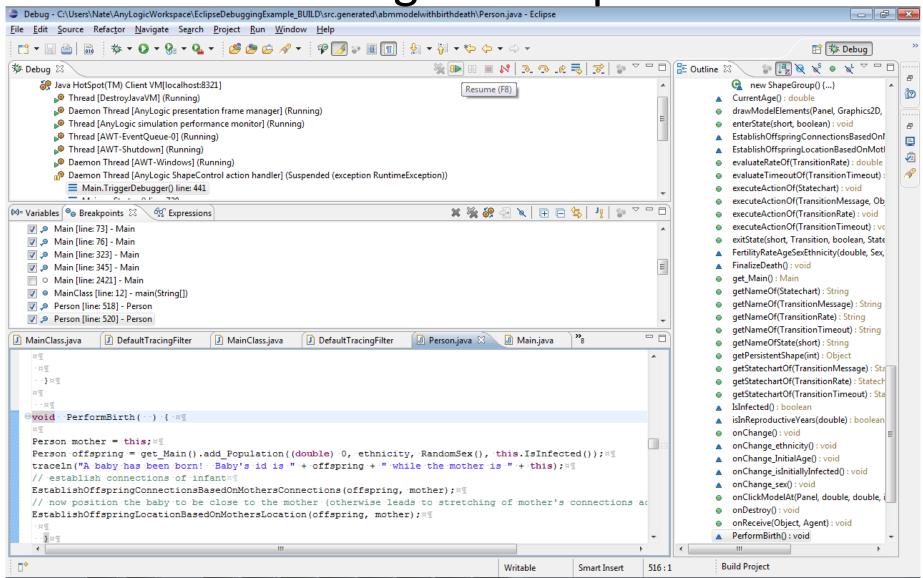


Can Single Step, Explore & Modify Variable Contents, etc.

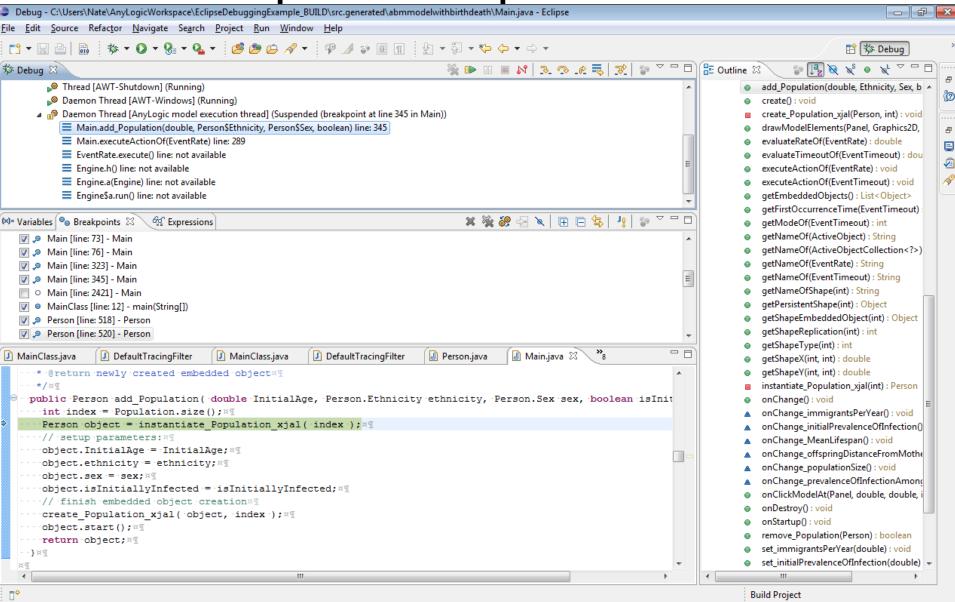


Warning: Breakpoints are Not Shown in Source Window – Just in "Breakpoints" area

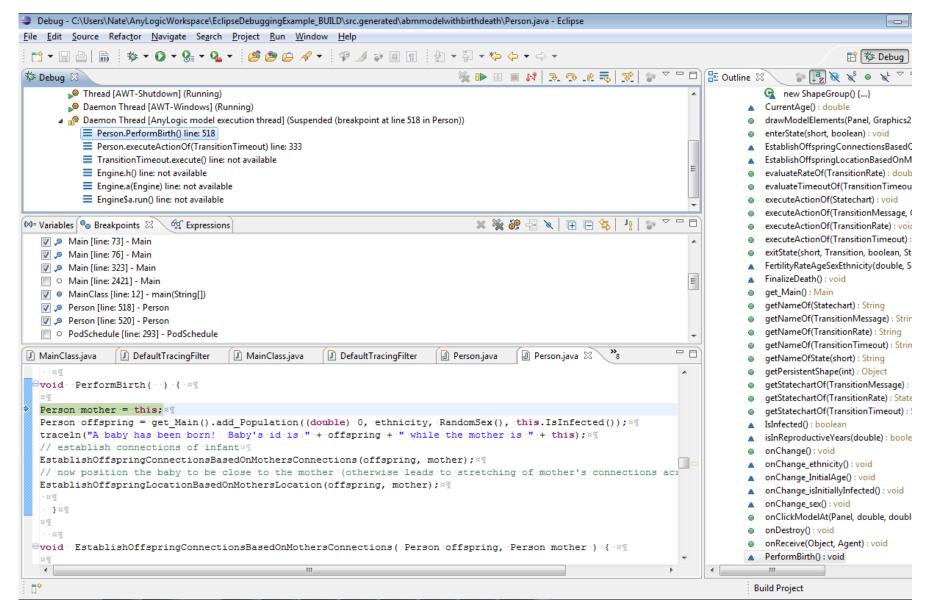
Press "Resume" to Continue – Awaiting a Breakpoint



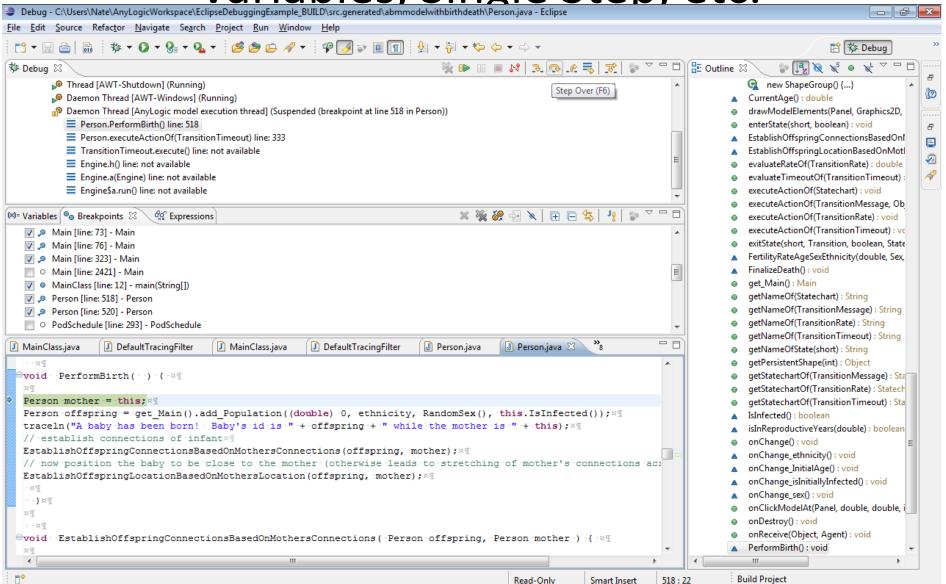
Example Breakpoint in Main



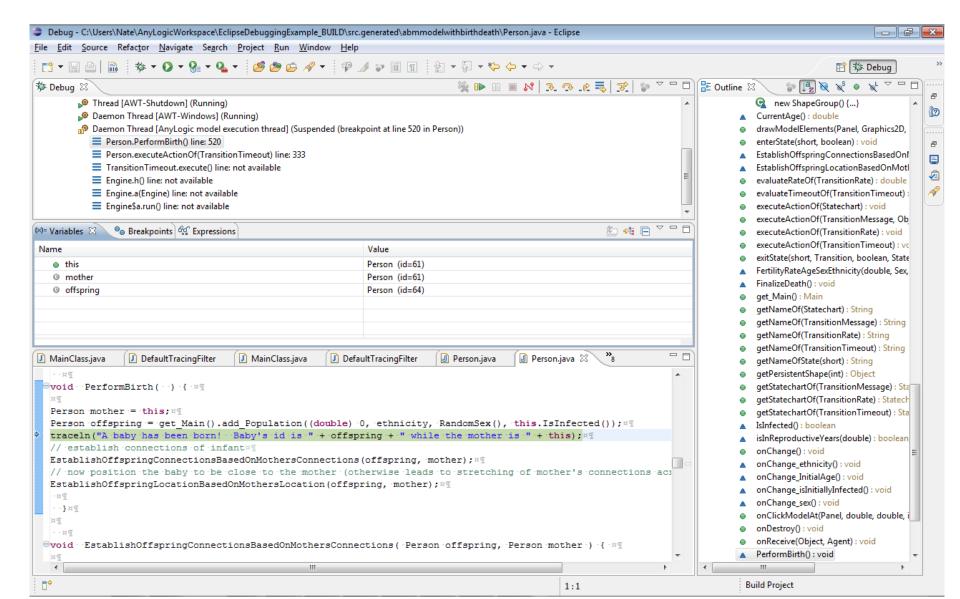
Example Breakpoint in Person



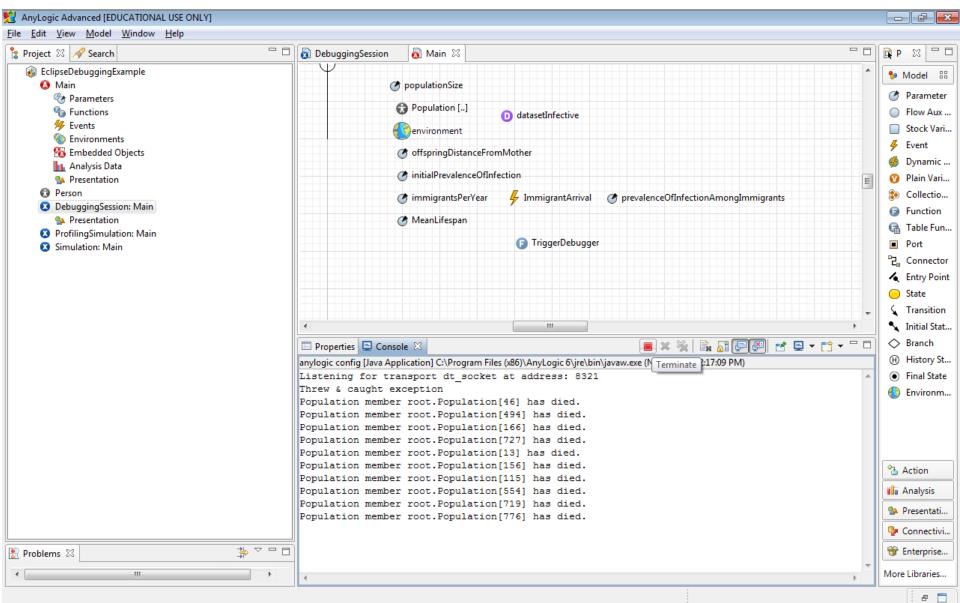
Once at Breakpoint, Can Look at Variables, Single Step, etc.



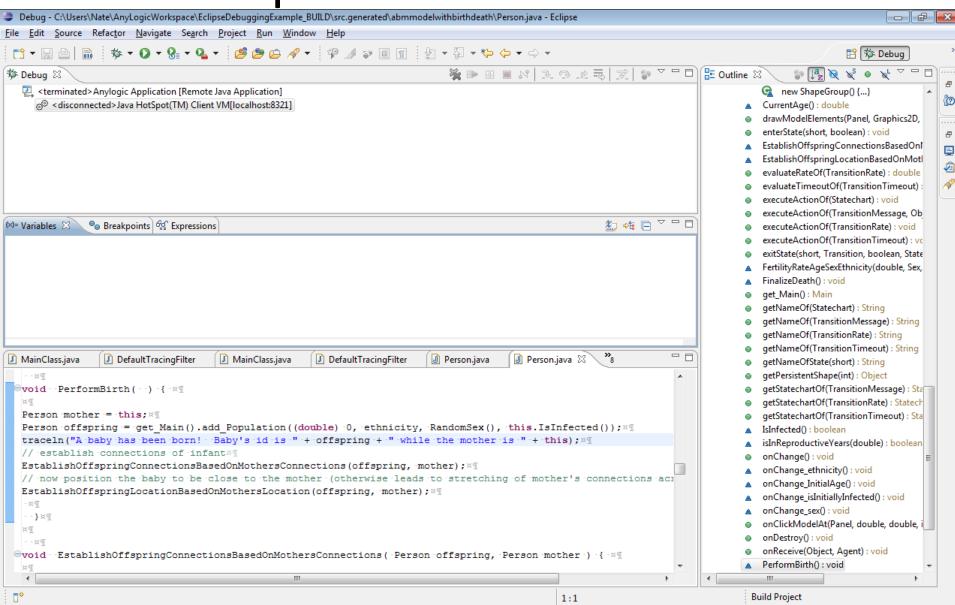
Variables Displayed



Terminating Execution from AnyLogic Console



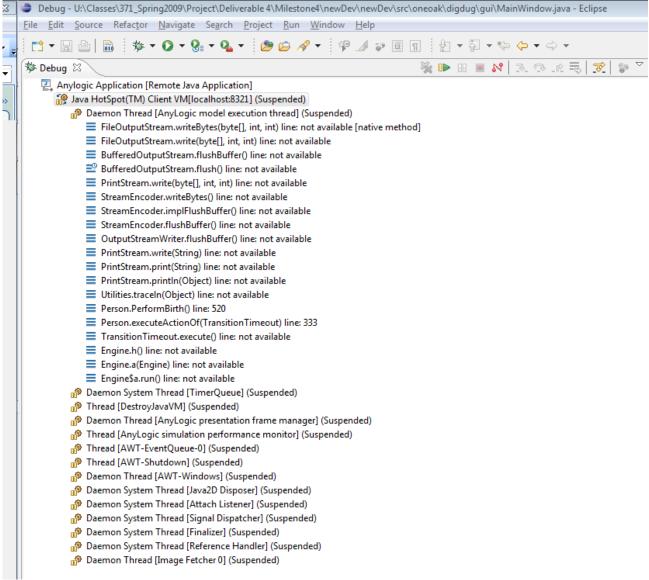
Eclipse is Now Detached



Remembering Breakpoints

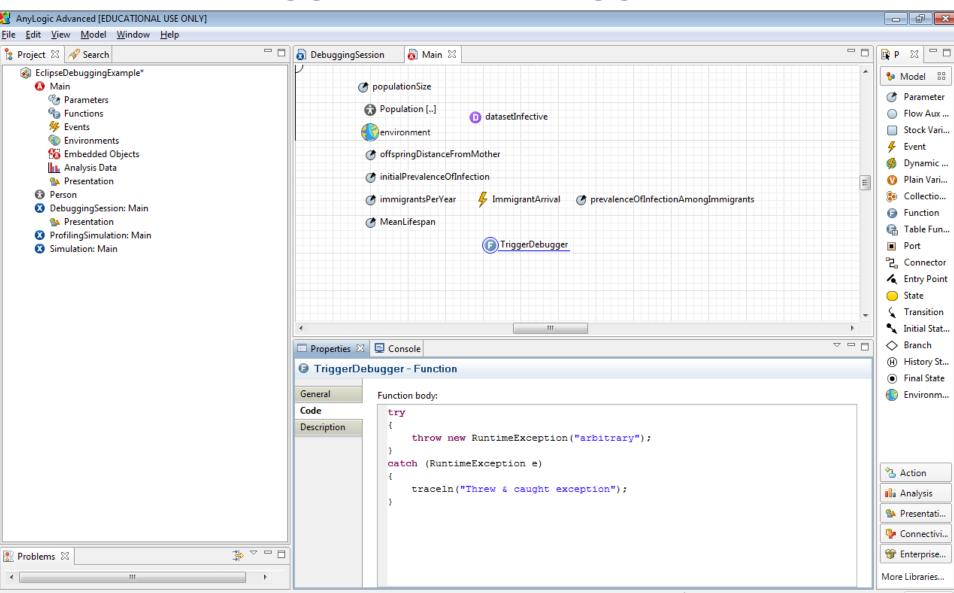
- Note Eclipse does remember breakpoints from session to session
- So breakpoints that set earlier in an anylogic session will work again even after close eclipse and restart it again
- Suggestions
 - Consider creating a common breakpoints (e.g. at Main.start)
 - Disable and enable breakpoints rather than deleting them

Example of Debugging Session

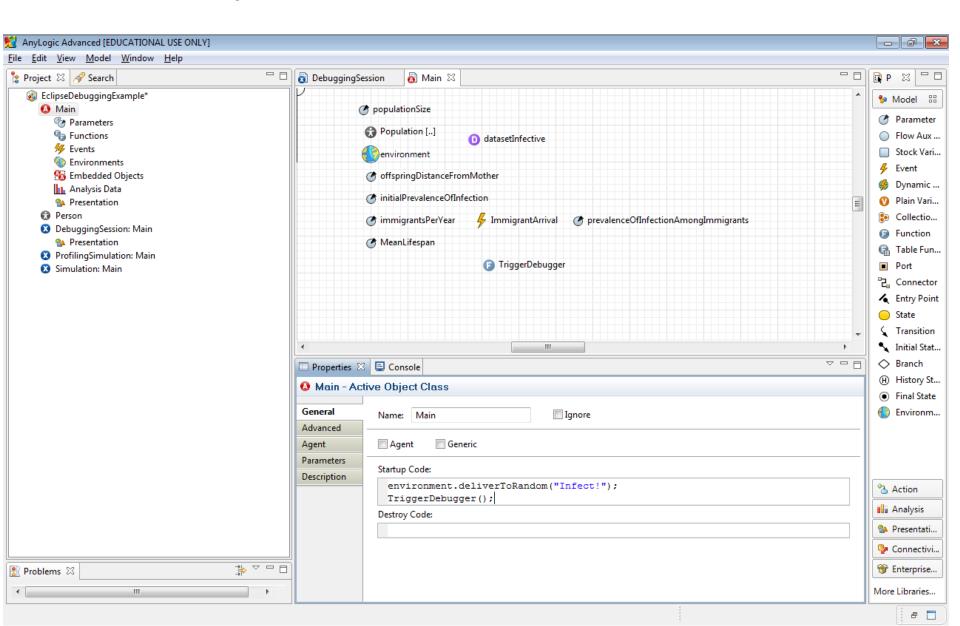


Another Route: Catching Exceptions at Defined Places of Interest

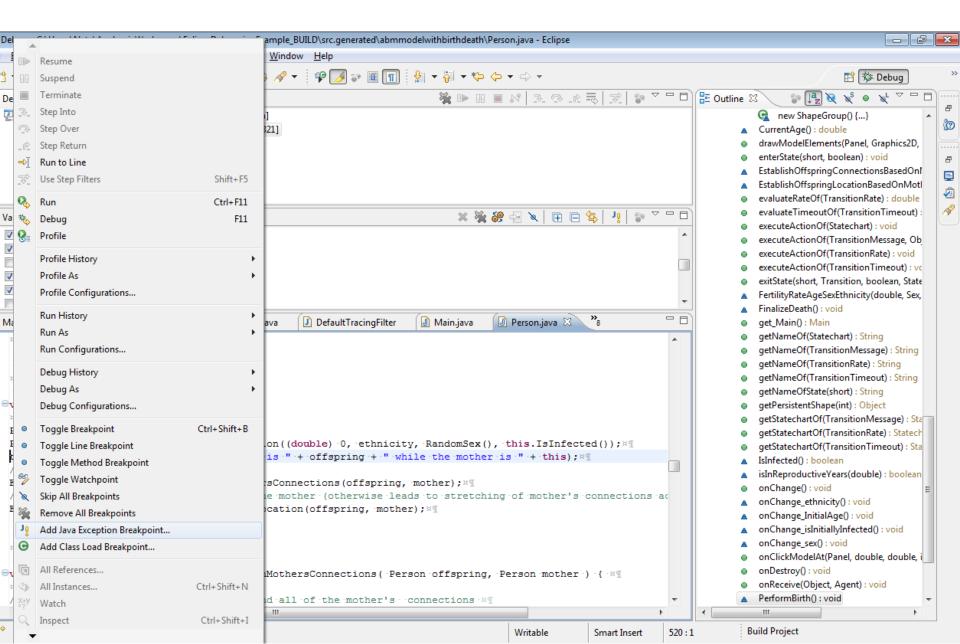
Example Setup: Set up Function to Trigger the Debugger



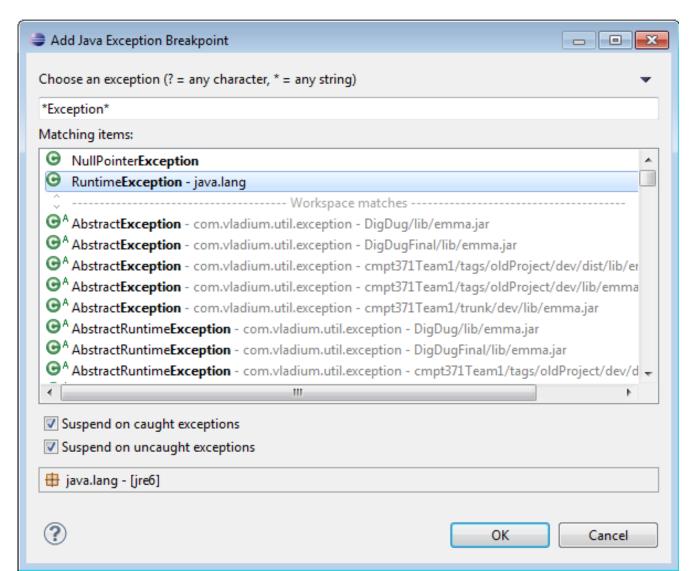
In Startup Code for Model, Call Function



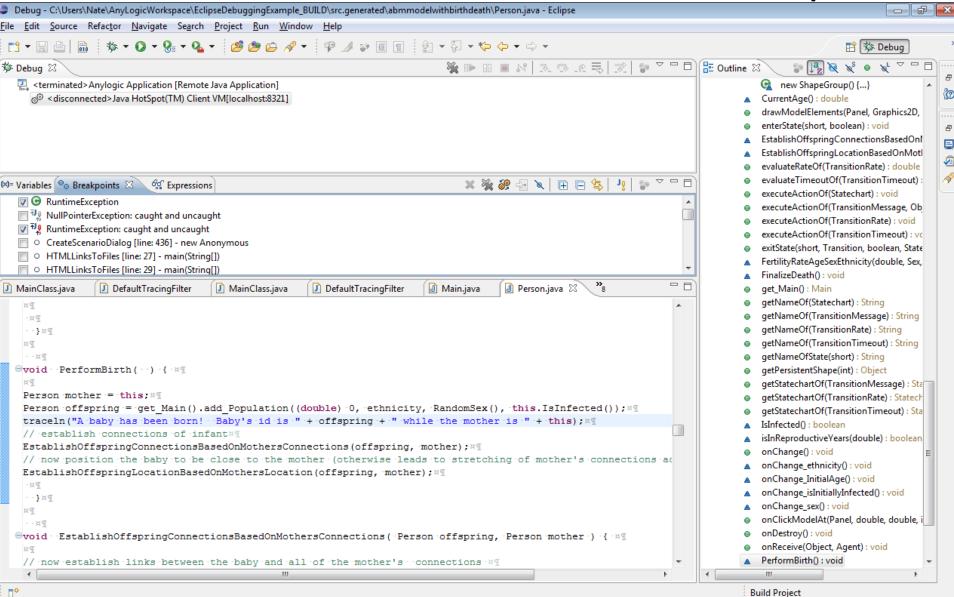
Request Creation of Exception Breakpoint



Request as Breakpoint Regardless of Handling

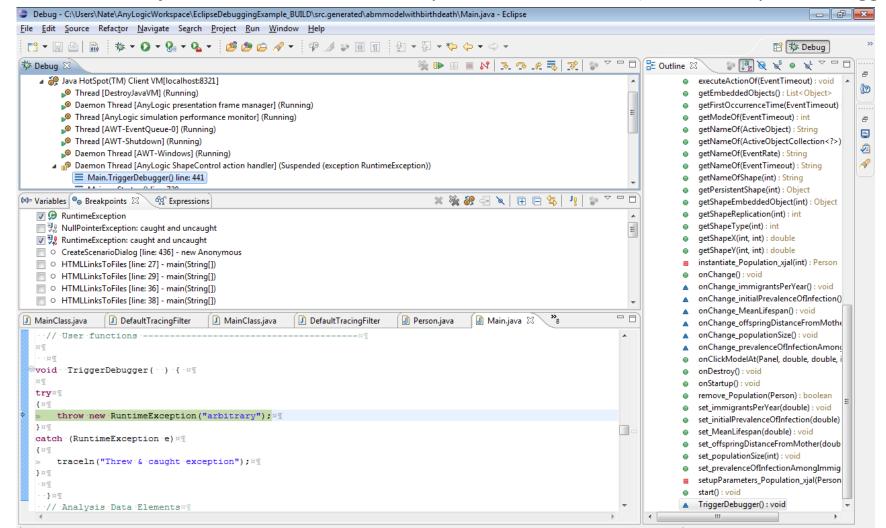


Should Now be in List of Enabled Breakpoints



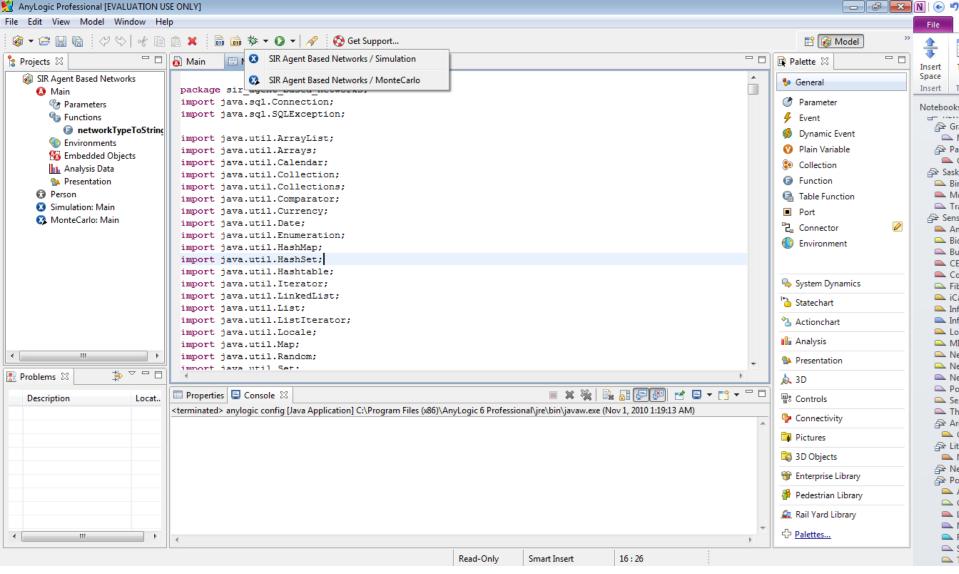
Back in Eclipse, the Debugger Should have been Triggered & at Exception Handle

(If not, close "Main.java" and double-click on topmost "stack frame" (Where Exception is triggered

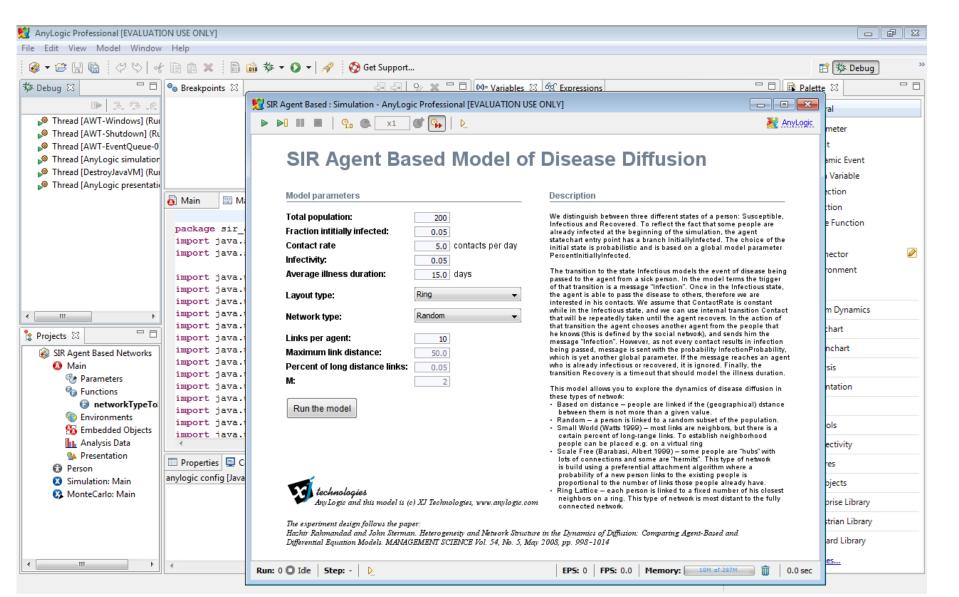


Using the AnyLogic Built-in Debugger

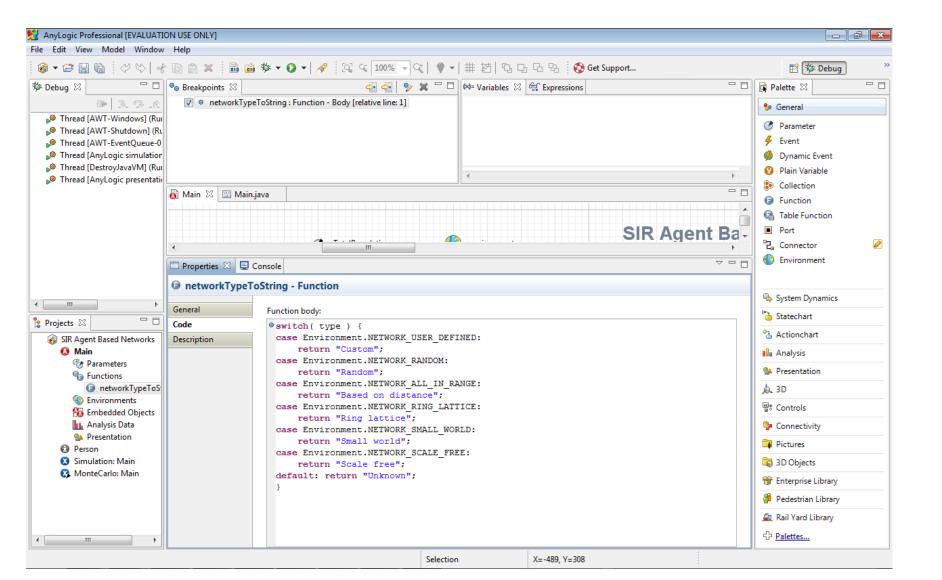
Running the Debugger



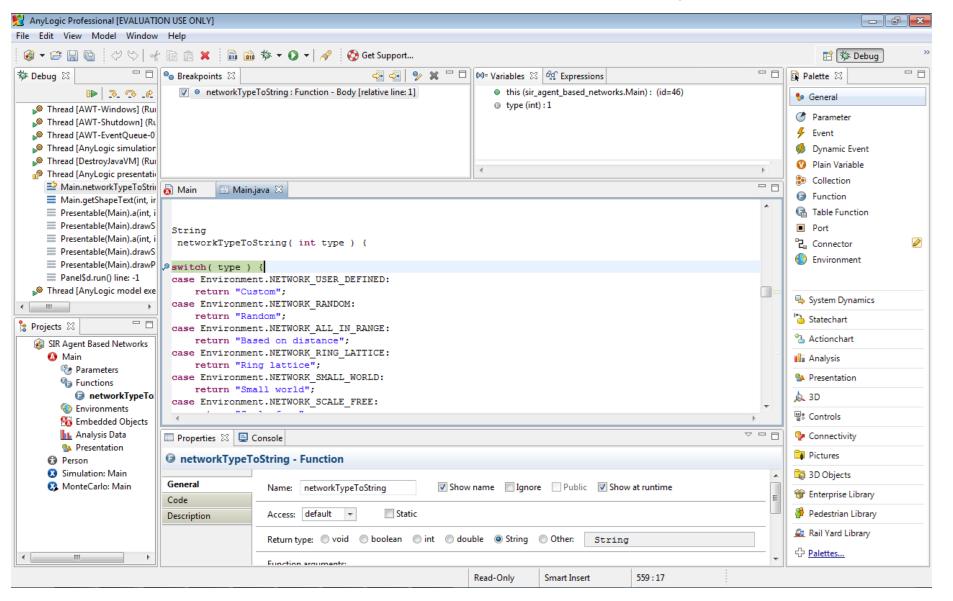
Running the Models



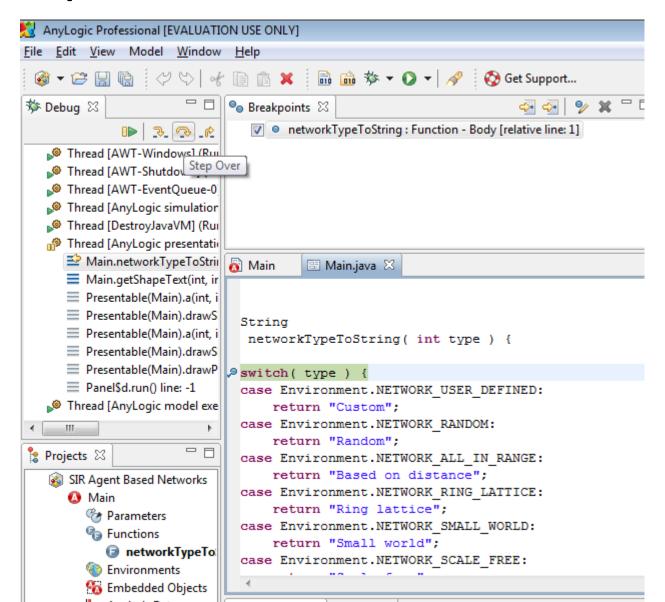
Setting a Breakpoint



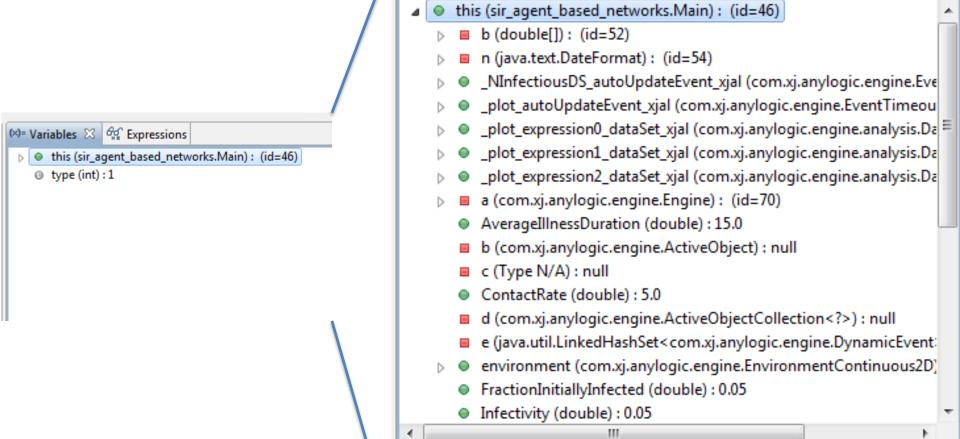
When we Hit the Breakpoint...



Components to Direct Execution

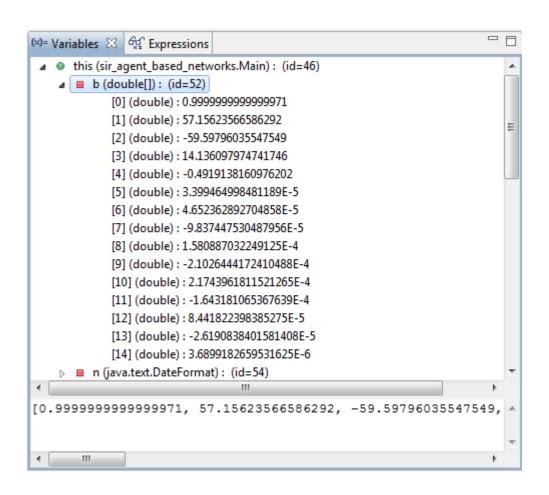


Visible ("In-Scope") Variables

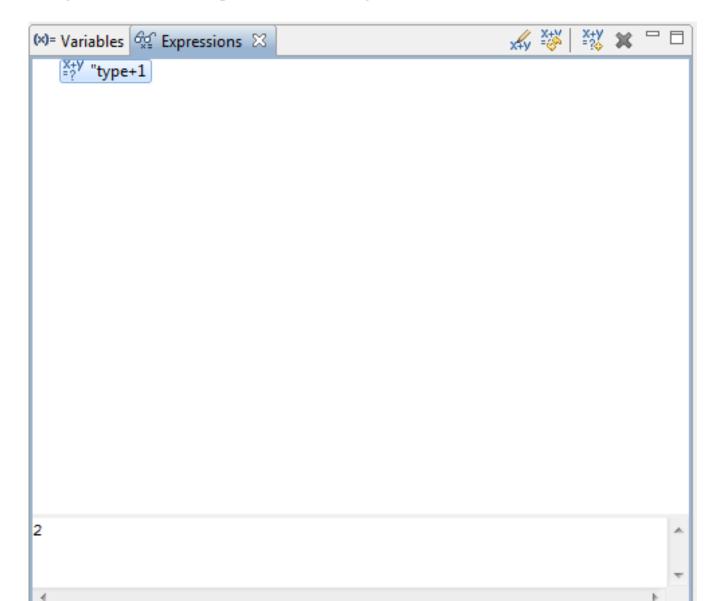


root

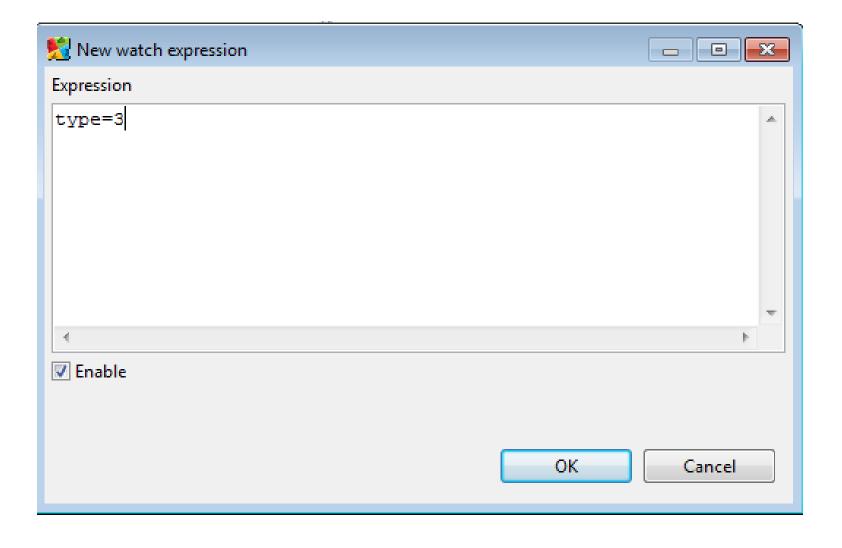
Exploring Composite Variable Values in the Debugger



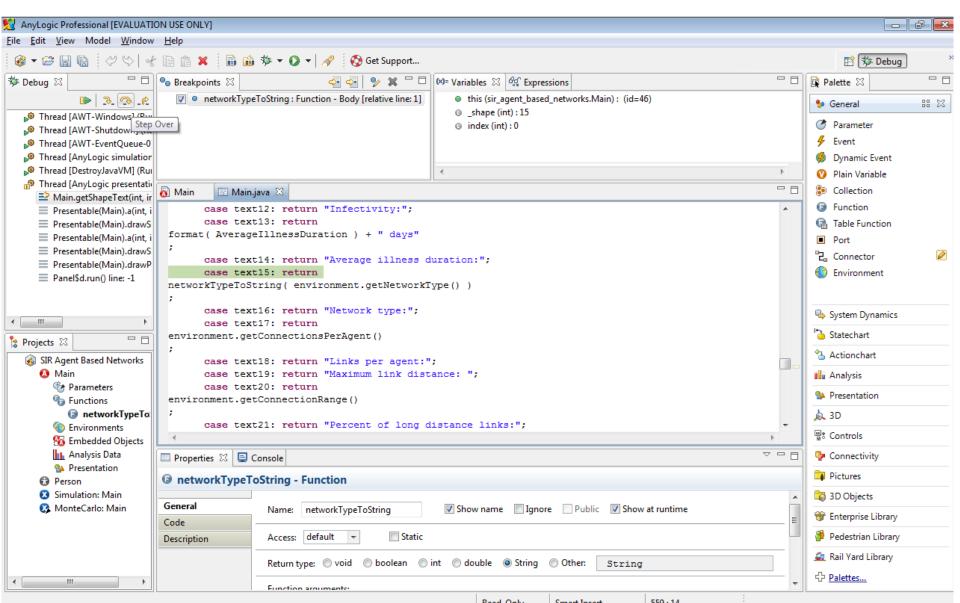
Inspecting Composite Variables



Changing Variable Values During Debugging



Stepping into Auto-Generated Code



Seeing Result of Expression Evaluation

